

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9671

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, UN

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
AT REGIONAL WHO MEETING IN MANILA (SEPT 6-11, 1976)

REF: (A) STATE 206092; (B) STATE 210298; (C) GENEVA 6758;
(D) MANILA 12206; (E) MANILA 12080

1. WHO OFFICE HERE HAS CONFIRMED THAT SRV REPS WILL ATTEND SEPT 6-11 REGIONAL WHO MEETING IN MANILA, AS THEY DID AUGUST FAO MEETING. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ON LATTER OCCASION USDEL INCLUDED, AS PART OF OPENING REMARKS, STATEMENT THAT WE BELIEVE THAT SRV MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE DECIDED AT FAO (PLENARY) CONFERENCE AND DECISION NOT ASSUMED BY REGIONAL MEETINGS. THESE U.S. REMARKS STRUCK SOMETHING OF A SOUR NOTE AT THE CONFERENCE. LOCAL PRESS REACTION, OBVIOUSLY GUIDED BY GOP, WAS CRITICAL AND ACCUSED U.S. OF INJECTING A POLITICAL ISSUE. WE ANTICIPATE SIMILAR AND PERHAPS STRONGER LOCAL REACTION IF WE FOLLOW SAME COURSE OF ACTION AT WHO MEETING.

2. WHILE SUCH CRITICISM SHOULD NOT UNDULY CONCERN US, WE QUESTION WHETHER THERE IS ANY NET ADVANTAGE TO US IN INITIATING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE HERE. THUS WE WOULD BE INCLINED NOT TO INSERT THIS ISSUE IN U.S. STATEMENTS AT FORTHCOMING WHO MEETING UNLESS OTHER PARTIES FIRST RAISE THE MATTER PUBLICLY. AS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE
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MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO RECORD OUR RESERVATIONS,

WE MIGHT CONSIDER HAVING USDEL SUBMIT A SEPARATE WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN RATHER THAN INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP IN USDEL'S OTHERWISE APOLITICAL OPENING STATEMENT. THERE IS DANGER, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A SEPARATE STATEMENT WOULD BECOME PUBLIC WITH THE SAME RESULTS AS AT THE FAO MEETING.

3. WHO STAFF MEMBER BERNICE NEWTON (AMCIT) COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT BOTH FORMER DRV AND GVN HAD BEEN WHO MEMEBERS AND THAT U.S. HAD PARTICIPATED IN EARLIER WHO CONFERENCE WITH BOTH. SHE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN VIEW OF THIS, PROBLEM WOULD NOT ARISE REGARDING SRV PARTICIPATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS RE PARA 2 ABOVE.
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